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1962/10/10



UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1962

The Operational Group requests approval for the following
USIA proposal:

Broadcasting in Russian to Cuba

The USIA proposes a new Voice of America show in the Russian language beamed to Soviet Bloc "technicians" in Cuba. This would be a daily half-hour shortwave program consisting primarily of news and feature items from the regular VOA service to the Soviet Bloc, carried within a format of occasional Russian and U. S. music.

This program would maintain customary VOA broadcast standards and would be entirely consistent with regular VOA broadcasts to Soviet Bloc countries.

The purposes of this program would be:

1. To dramatize the Russian presence in Cuba for our Latin American audiences.
2. To build tensions between the Russians and the Cuban people. On its regular broadcasting schedule in Spanish to Cuba and the rest of Latin America, VOA would make occasional reference to the content of the Russian language broadcasts. This would continue to call attention to the presence of the Russians in Cuba.
3. To transmit accurate information about Cuba and other international problems to the Russians on the island in the hope of encouraging defections for possible defection.

Arguments against such a program are:

1. It might be taken to imply USG recognition and acceptance of the Russian presence in Cuba;

2. It might create a feeling in Latin America that we have abandoned Cuba to the opposition; and

3. It might be taken by the Cuban people as a sign that we will

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Date:

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FOIA Exemptions
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MR. Case: Only

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not being to limit and in the event of an outbreak against the present regime.

Pending a final decision, the Agency is staffing out the project and plans to set a specific hour between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at which time VOA has two frequencies available.

VOA would be prepared to commence broadcasting by Monday, October 22, 1962.

We did a dry-run of a Russian program to Cuba on Monday, October 8, 1962, and came up with the following format which would serve as a general model for future programs.

The first 15 minutes were devoted to news divided into two parts. Part one (10-12 minutes) was composed of news items taken from our regular Russian sources of the day, and from other VOA source material -- shortened and selected with the interests of the particular audience in mind. In the remaining 3-5 minutes, news items taken from our VOA Latin America file covering the Caribbean area and Cuba in particular were intermingled. The second 15 minutes of the program consisted of three features: (1) A round-up of U.S. press comment with items chosen on the basis of interest to the audience. (2) A news analysis on the withdrawal of troops from Laos. (3) An interview with a Cuban defector, a former agriculture worker, describing conditions in agriculture under the Castro regime.

Musical "bridges" between the various elements of the program featured well-known Russian music and American jazz.

(signed)

Donald M. Wilson
Acting Director

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